



Goodbye, Mr. Bush

Public Schools Partner with Parents, Principals and Local Businesses to Raise Funds in Hard Times

By Lori Higa

Even before threatened budget cuts prompted by the state's \$40 billion deficit, many of the City's public schools have gone without art and science classes, field trips, books and supplies. Some schools may be closed as the San Francisco Unified School District scrambles to make ends meet. However, four of the City's elementary schools – Alvarado, Daniel Webster, Starr King and Leonard Flynn – have patched together a web of resources by forming strategic alliances of teachers, students, principals and parents, and developing creative ways to raise money.

At Alvarado Elementary School, located at Douglass and 22nd streets, self-described active parents Todd David, a Lion Hill Partnership investment fund manager, and his spouse, Tiffany Loewenberg, a stay-at-home mom, are among an unlikely group who raised an almost unheard of amount of money during the last school year: nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Their oldest son Noah, seven, is in first grade, while Alana, four, and 15-month old Isaac are at home. Prompted by a *Noe Valley Voice* article, which indicated that Alvarado was failing federal No Child Left Behind standards, the couple asked Alvarado school principal Robert Broecker how they could help.

"From there, we just got sucked into everything that's going on with budget cuts," David recalled.

Loewenberg became co-chair of the grant writing committee, working with fellow parent Diane Smith, the school's Parent-Teacher Association's (PTA) vice president of fundraising, and Gabriela Tinoco, the PTA president. Parents Jennifer Bing and Melinda Capiraso donated their time and skills as professional fundraisers.

David quickly established an after-school reading program to serve the school's non-English-speaking students. "The Excel after-school program has 90 children and three or four teachers," explained David. The reading-mentoring program brings parents and children together to read for 20 minutes every day. "About 20 of those kids walk over to James Lick Middle School and read with seventh and eighth graders once a week," he said. "The goal is to have an impact on English language learners' test scores in reading comprehension," added Smith.

According to David, upper-income parents send their children to public schools because they believe in the concept of public education, not to save money. But, "we knew we could raise money," he said.

Diane and Tim Smith have lived in San Francisco for a dozen years. They both work at Tim's technology public relations firm, Element PR, and have two children, a five-year-old daughter, Quincy, in kindergarten, and son Jeremiah, eight, in second grade.

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Transportation Agency Attempts to Calm Hill Traffic

By Sarah Marloff

Last month the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) held the last of a series of meetings focusing on improving traffic management in Potrero Hill. SFMTA's Adam Gubser and Mike Sallaberry presented the details of a proposed traffic calming plan to roughly thirty Hill residents gathered at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

SFMTA's Potrero Hill planning – the agency defines the community as the area encompassed by the two local freeways, US 101 and Interstate 280, and 16th and Cesar Chavez streets – began in March 2007. The effort was prompted by a flood of requests from Hill residents for stop signs and other traffic safety infrastructure. The goal of traffic calming is to make streets more livable, according to Gubser. Many of the traffic calming measures

examined for potential adoption are intended to reduce automobile speed and cut-through traffic from drivers who're trying to avoid, or quickly access, the freeways. The measures are also supposed to improve aesthetics, maintain access to the neighborhood, and increase driver awareness. The interventions considered include a "combination of self-enforcing physical measures to improve safety on the streets...however, we do not want to push [traffic] onto another neighborhood," said Gubser. Measures that are ultimately adopted will be enforced by the San Francisco Police Department.

Meeting participants had mixed responses to the presentation. One resident expressed concern that SFMTA's plans for the southside of Kansas Street, currently a straight-away to and from Cesar Chavez, would actually make the street more congested. SFMTA proposes to add gateways and bulbouts at both ends

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Million Fishes Makes Art

By Halley Cornell

In San Francisco art collectives are like city buses, regularly appearing and disappearing. But Million Fishes may be an art collective with staying power. The labyrinthine space, located at 23rd and Bryant streets, serves as an incubator for emerging artists who work, live, and create together. Founded in 2003 by San Francisco artist Kevin Clarke, Million Fishes Arts Collective has nurtured a rotating cast of choreographers, musicians, visual artists, filmmakers, writers, conceptual artists, fashion designers, and others trying to make their mark in the local arts scene.

The exterior of the multi-story collective looks much like any residential building. Inside it's a cabinet of curiosities. In one corner, a music studio piled high with vintage keyboards; in another, a clothing shop with half-sewn coats on mannequins;



An art opening at Million Fishes

across the way a darkroom with tubs awaiting fixer. Down the narrow hallway there's a small dance studio with the sloped ceilings of a century-old wine cellar; until Prohibition, the building housed an Italian vintner who ferried grapes by horse-drawn wagon from St. Helena to crush and age in the building.

Million Fishes' building features a corner gallery with a handful of large, bright windows where

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Publisher's View Reconstruction

By Steven J. Moss

The world is spinning on its metaphorical axis. Our financial system has collapsed; held together by a multi-trillion dollar lien on the next generation. A global culture war is being waged on virtually every continent, last month resulting in the deaths of almost two hundred people in India. The once giant automobile industry, the last of our great manufacturing sectors, is poised to implode, taking with it the residues of working class pensions and health care coverage. And the earth's climate is being massively altered, not entirely ironically, by that very same industry.

Our financial system collapsed under the weight of too much debt. Banks and consumers both leveraged the @#!\$ out of even the feeblest of assets, to the point of virtually turning breathing into an asset worthy of borrowing against. This giant Ponzi scheme depended on all involved – from the social security-dependent grandma who'd hocked her house to buy a flat screen television, to Citigroup executives, who did the same in exchange for massive bonuses and (temporarily) higher stock prices – to continue to make their loan payments. Once the defaults started, exposing that there wasn't even a man behind the curtain, but rather a mathematical equation that was supposed to manage risks, the resulting stampede to the exits was unstoppable. Last one out has to pay the bill.

The consequences are clear. No more loans for grandma or leverage for Citigroup, though, thanks to the government, the bank gets to keep its club memberships while grandma's consolation prize is the soup kitchen. The national housing and commercial real estate markets will remain comatose for years. And much of the debt has been transferred to the government, or, more particularly, to my seven-year-old daughter Sara and her playmates.

Meantime, in Mo-town, things aren't looking so good. While China seized the opportunity created by our leveraged wealth to leap from the 19th century to 1955, Detroit took a nostalgic cruise down gasoline alley, producing highway boats of a size that would have been familiar to my grandfather, except without the fins. With equity loans in hand, each of us spent upwards of \$4,000 a year to purchase an automobile over the last decade, with more than an equal amount being invested in gasoline and vehicle repairs. These expenditures, in turn, directly employed more than one million Americans – and indirectly supported many more – who received average wages and benefits that are higher than virtually every other economic sector except regulated utilities, software engineers, and scientists.

My father retired from Ford Motor Company's aerospace division with a nice pension and good health care

benefits. His grandchildren can firmly kiss that opportunity goodbye. Once what's left of the automobile industry re-emerges several years from now, the only individuals who will still have access to similar levels of income security will be those who work for the government and regulated monopolies. The fact that the rest of us will have to count on rapidly rising stock or property markets to support our old age will lead us back to exactly where we are today. Without a reasonable chance of a retirement that's more generous than social security can provide – assuming that system is even solvent two decades from now – pressure will mount for more and faster profits, the creation of complex financial instruments to get there, and the inevitable collapse. A brighter future will require us to either redefine our expectations – no more iPods in every pot – or find ways to create real wealth, rather than bubbles that imitate wealth until they loudly pop.

Our ostentatious consuming of oversized homes garaging gigantic vehicles triggered global warming, and irritated the Osama Bin Ladens of the world, whether they took the form of Ted Kaczynski or a suicide bomber in Iraq. These individuals preferred, or had no choice, to live in a cave or a small shack, and ardently wanted the rest of us to do the same. Oddly, for many of us this wish may now come true. Not as a result of plane crashes and bombings, but due to our own debt-laden foolishness. Simultaneously, fewer cars on the road means we're speeding towards the worst effects of global climate change a tad less quickly. Someone, somewhere, is laughing.

In this context we shouldn't be talking about "stimulus packages," but rather re-construction. Our government shouldn't take on a dime more debt to pay for consumption, whether it's cars, homes or the toys that go with them. Instead, we should split our scarce taxpayer dollars into two piles. The larger pile should be used to ensure that everyone, from babies to seniors, has access to minimum standards of health care, housing, food, and education. The rest should be invested in ways that pay off over a multitude of tomorrows, not in even higher definition televisions, but healthier eco-systems, stronger communities, and greater wisdom.

According to Einstein, God does not play dice with the universe. We humans aren't so lucky. Right now, misplaced faith in our go-go-gone financial system combined with hyper consumerism has left all of us sitting at the proverbial high stakes poker game. And we're all in. It's going to take some strong hands, good nerves, and a dash of bluff to play our way out of this one. Let's hope our cool cat president and his coterie of smarty pants advisors have been counting cards.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is a plea for help for Potrero's lovely pre-school, Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School (FPHNS). As many of you know, our lease for space at Starr King Elementary School will terminate at the end of this school year. I feel very fortunate to have a successful neighborhood elementary school like Starr King, and we are strongly considering it for our children, but where does that leave FPHNS?

FPHNS is one of Potrero Hill's finest assets. FPHNS's mission is to be "a neighborhood preschool dedicated to cultivating healthy childhoods and serving the community," and that is exactly what they do! In twelve years more than two hundred children have attended the school, 80 percent of whom are from the Hill. From my own experience with the school I can tell you that the children who attend are nurtured and grow in such a unique and special way that it makes these little people standouts in our community. Not to be overlooked is the nurturing the parents receive. I personally have gained immeasurable parenting tools and support from FPHNS teachers and parents.

I have some worry about finding a new preschool for my kids. But I know with hard work and some scrambling we will be able to find another lovely preschool to accept our children, though it will most

likely not be in our neighborhood. What I worry about most is the loss the Hill will feel when this little school is no longer impacting our community through our children. I strongly support the efforts being put forth by Hill residents to create a strong sense of community for our children to grow up in. The support for families with infants and toddlers is unprecedented, and Live Oak, Starr King and Daniel Webster provide us with incredible elementary school options without having to leave Potrero. Without FPHNS there will be too few options for us to keep our kids in the community during their preschool years, creating a three to five year old void.

There are two ways in which FPHNS can use the community's help. We are going door-to-door on Potrero Hill to find space for our school, either on a permanent or interim basis. There are some basic requirements a preschool needs for licensing, but you may be surprised to find out that they are not that huge. If anyone has or knows of available space with adjacent, dedicated outdoor space, either warehouse, office, church- or school-affiliated, we would love to hear about it. If you are not aware of space that would fit our needs but still want to help, please consider attending the FPHNS's fundraiser, Swing into Spring. This year Swing into Spring will be held the evening of March 7 at the Potrero

Hill Neighborhood House. It is a fantastic community celebration with live music and food, as well as a silent auction, with hundreds of items to bid on. Auction item donations are also welcome. The best way to get in touch with FPHNS is to call the school at 864.5464. You can also visit the school's web site at www.fophn.com for more information.

Hallie Bradford
San Bruno Avenue

Dear Editor,

Since I moved away from Potrero Hill in 2005, I was surprised when my friends told me that I had been named in a recent *View* article. But I was delighted when I found out that the article finally brought to light the manner in which Suzanne Shields, acting as board chair of Starr King Park, has mishandled a community asset. I served on the board of the Starr King Park (its legal name) for several years, but resigned rather than continue to be the target of her perpetual assaults on logic, procedure and consideration. It saddened me to watch her continually alienate members of the neighborhood who care about this precious hilltop asset, which is literally owned by the residents of Potrero Hill. As a 501(c)3 charitable trust, the Starr King Park board is subject to both state and federal laws intended to protect the community's assets. The continual lack of information available to the owners of this park, including the names of the board members, is unacceptable. Ms. Shields herself was a proponent of a change to the bylaws to limit the terms of board officers. At this point she has outstayed her term. She should immediately provide the *View* with the names of the other eight officers, the amount and location of the trust fund balance and make arrangements for a properly noticed election as outlined in the organization's bylaws

so the neighborhood can elect a responsive board to oversee this community asset.

Dale Fletter
Sacramento

Dear Editor,

I just read the article about Homebirth that appeared on the front page of the *Potrero View's* December issue. The spirit of what I conveyed to writer Sarah Marloff with my answers to her (many) questions was completely absent, left on the cutting room floor. I feel that this piece portrays me as an anti-hospital homebirth zealot, making a blanket statement about homebirth being "actually much safer than hospital birth." This quote is taken completely out of context, and is inaccurate and untrue in some cases.

I am an expert on my own homebirth; I had a wonderful experience and I would do it again. I realize home birth is not for everyone and I deeply respect the decisions made by women to choose for themselves where to give birth. I know many women who also had wonderful experiences birthing in the hospital setting. Giving birth is amazing and transformative, regardless of where it occurs. I wish your article had focused a bit more on this.

I'm grateful we have the freedom of making these choices about giving birth. These reproductive freedoms we enjoy are hard-won by generations of women who came before us. I wish that Sarah Marloff had chosen to include more of my personal story in its own context. Perhaps I shall write my own article on giving birth in the future. I do appreciate the fact that homebirth is receiving attention and I thank you for your efforts in bringing this conversation to a broader audience.

Kathleen Sampel Morris
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Short Cuts

Constant Revolution

President-elect Barack Obama hasn't yet been sworn into office, but the jockeying for the next round of City offices is in full swing. Supervisors Bevan Dufty and Ross Mirkarimi, as well as Dogpatch resident and City Attorney **Dennis Herrera** appear to be strong possibilities to succeed **Gavin Newsom** for Mayor, if anybody can be considered strong two years before the show-down. This year's race to become District 10 Supervisor will be even more crowded, with San Francisco Human Rights Commissioner Linda Richardson, Bayview-Hunters Point Health and Environmental Resource Center Executive Director Betty McGee, San Francisco School Board member Kim-Shree Maufas, Potrero Hill Boosters Association president **Tony Kelly**, Just for You owner **Arienne Landry**, and Dogpatch Neighborhood Association president **Susan Eslick**, among others, possibly in the mix. Even *View* publisher **Steven Moss** and **Goat Hill Pizza** owner **Philip De Andrade** have been rumored to be mulling over the opportunity to serve. Later this year the **Potrero Hill Democratic Club** will be holding a series of informal meet-the-candidates sessions. If you know of someone who is or should be running, let us know... in the meantime odds are that our current Supervisor, **Sophie Maxwell**, will be elected Board President for her final year in office.

Power Plant

Speaking of **Sophie Maxwell**, last month the supervisor proposed an ordinance to make it City policy to "take all feasible steps to close the entire Potrero Power Plant as soon as possible," and urging the **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission** to "immediately prepare a plan" to close the nasty old dinosaur, among other things. Of course just about everyone in the City, including the mayor, already claims they want to close the facility, but no one seems to be able to make it happen. The question now is what will occur first: Maxwell and the mayor being termed out of office, or the plant closing.

Trust Fund?

By all appearances the **Eastern Neighborhood Trust Fund**, which was pledged \$1.5 million dollars in exchange for community support to allow 650 Townsend LLC to convert

from exhibition to office space, is doling out grants to widely-supported nonprofits, including the **Potrero Residents Education Fund** and the **Potrero Hill Neighborhood House**. But you won't hear the Trust Fund talk about it. None of the Trust Fund's board members, which consist of Dogpatch resident **Joe Boss**, as well as the presidents of the **Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** and **Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses**, are willing to talk to the *View* about which nonprofits are getting how much money. Board members insist that the donor-driven fund doesn't have to reveal its giving practices, which, strictly speaking, is true. But according to City records, the Trust Fund was created as a result of support from the **Potrero Hill Boosters Association**, a community group that tries to represent the neighborhood's, i.e., all of our, interests. Isn't transparent giving the best kind of giving?

Small Business Cash

Dogpatch-based **San Francisco Community Power** distributed \$86,000 – in checks ranging from \$50 to \$5,000 – to small businesses, nonprofits, and small cities who participated in a "demand-response" program, in which energy users are asked to temporarily reduce their electricity use when demand is high during summer months. Happy recipients included Southeast San Francisco-based **American Industrial Center**, San Francisco Produce Market Association, and the United Council of Human Services, all of whom reduced polluting air and greenhouse gas emissions, and helped the state avoid electricity outages, by participating in the program.

See Wall

The **Port of San Francisco's** designated development team for the 16-acre Seawall Lot 337, aka the **San Francisco Giant's** parking lot, is supposed to submit its latest proposal this month. The team, which includes **Kenwood Investments** and the **Giants**, appears to be having problems coming up with a plan in the midst of the economic turmoil. The future isn't as bright as it was just a year ago, when several competing teams slugged it out for the privilege of investing billions of dollars into a gravel parking lot.

Biofuels

Dogpatch Biofuels opened for business last month, offering 100 percent recycled vegetable oil bio-diesel imported from Reno-based Bently Biofuels. The station, which is located at 765 Pennsylvania Avenue, is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays; and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. At \$3.78 a gallon you'll be paying more than the cost of diesel, at least this month, but you'll feel so much better when you drive.

Law Suit

A lawsuit by 76-year-old **Raymond Miller**, a Texas Street resident, against the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) was dismissed last month. An aborted 911 call from **Jean Miller**, Raymond's wife of 35 years, brought four officers to the Millers' home. According to testimony taken in the case, Jean had long been separated from Raymond, and complained that her husband threatened to kill her. When 270-pound Raymond told the officers to leave the premises they moved to arrest him, which he resisted, causing a range of disputed bodily harm. Raymond wanted \$50,000 for his troubles. A San Francisco Superior Court jury took just ten minutes to rule in SFPD's favor.

Live Potrero

Live Nation recently moved its San Francisco offices, and the 50 employees that inhabit them, to a 23,000-square-foot office space located at Rhode Island and 16th streets. The concert production firm – which owns more than 20 amphitheatres, including Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View and Concord's Sleep Train Pavilion – was previously known as Bill Graham Presents, named after the once ubiquitous Bill Graham, a Holocaust survivor who died in a 1991 helicopter crash.

Bells are Ringing

School may have been out the last two weeks of December, but that didn't stop the campus bells from ringing. At the start of school, recess, and end of day bells continued to sound, at some schools starting as early as 7:50 a.m. and lasting until after 2 p.m. When school's are out neighbors get a break from high-spirited kids, principals with bullhorns, noisy busses and parents blocking driveways and double-parking. But the bells continue. For whom do they toll?

Toddlers, not Babies

Last month's *View* included a story, "PREFund Launches Potrero Kids at Daniel Webster Preschool" that erroneously stated that the preschool catered to children aged

nine months to two years. That, however, would be more akin to a pre-school. **Potrero Kids at Daniel Webster** is in fact for children that range from two years, nine months to pre-kindergarten age.

Entertaining Commission

Jordan Shlain, a mayoral appointee to the seven-member Entertainment Commission – and the brother of filmmaker **Tiffany Shlain**, a former Potrero Hill resident – resigned from the commission last month. Shlain, who represented neighborhood interests, was one of only two commissioners who didn't hail essentially from the entertainment industry. He left the commission to spend more time with his father, who is battling brain cancer. The commission, which was established in 2003, reviews entertainment-related permit applications. If you're a neighborly sort and are concerned about how events are managed in San Francisco you might consider letting someone at City Hall know that you'd like to serve.

Baby New Year Should be Ashamed of Himself

Trend's Journal makes the following happy predictions for 2009: markets will tumble and major businesses will fail, continuing an economic downturn that will be worse than the 1930s; the Obama Administration will usher in a number of political victories, but also preside over major failures; consumers expenditures will continue to be tight, including on food; they'll be a shift from lawns to edible landscaping; stem cell research will move from the laboratory and into practice; drinking will be all the rage; and many colleges are going to go under. Happy new year.

Zombie Vampires

It's hard not to notice that zombies, the monster sensation for the last several years, seem to have been pushed aside by vampires, at least as judged by the frequency in which they appear in movies, television shows, and names of rock bands. Zombies, who travel in packs, tend to be slow but persistent, and eat everyone they see, would seem to reflect a societal zeitgeist of conformity and consumerism. Vampires, on the other hand, are dapper, sexy and individualistic; perhaps a nod to the multitudes of financial brokers and politicians who've sucked our blood over the last decade. We chased the bear, now the bear is chasing us. Interestingly, both creatures create more of themselves when they feed, not unlike social networking...

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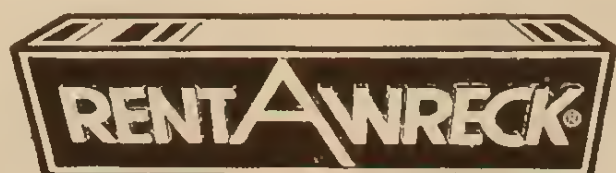
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New Design Guidelines Proposed for Eastern Neighborhoods

By Lisa Tehrani

It took almost a decade, but the Eastern Neighborhood Area Plans and Rezoning project was finally approved last month by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The economy permitting, residential construction may soon begin in the newly zoned neighborhoods. What that housing will look like is unknown. However, the Planning Department's draft *Ground Floor Residential Design Guidelines* suggest that new housing will likely have stoops, porches and landscaping.

Many of the design requirements for new buildings in the Eastern Neighborhoods are already codified in the City's General Plan. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, *Design Guidelines* will provide more detailed guidance to new residential development in the Eastern Neighborhoods, Market and Octavia and Rincon Hill planning areas. Joshua Switzky, the Planning Department urban designer coordinating the project, explained that the guidelines are "based on the most successful and cherished building patterns in neighborhoods throughout San Francisco, and are informed by the best of contemporary residential design and development in cities throughout North America." He noted that the guidelines are appropriate for new buildings of all scales; from 25 foot lots to block-long developments. The guidelines are intended for buildings with residential uses at the ground level; guidelines for ground floor commercial uses and other aspects of building design are detailed in the *Area Plans'* built form chapters.

Guidelines promotes residential buildings that are "designed to enhance the interface of buildings with the sidewalk, to express fine-grained pattern of residential units, to soften the building edge at the sidewalk with landscaping, to provide sufficient transition from public to private space and to provide a welcoming and identifiable entry for residential units." Architects and building owners would be required to follow the *Guidelines*. Not doing so could result in a discretionary review, which could trigger requirements for specific alterations or even rejection of the project entirely.

The *Guidelines* façade modulation chapter explains that residential buildings should look like separate units approximately every thirty feet, so as to resemble the City's typical lot size. This variation in the building's façade should occur through changes to the building's architecture, such as with bay windows or entryways. Likewise, buildings should be setback from the street by between three and 10 feet to create a transition from the public sidewalk to the private residence. These setback areas are supposed to be landscaped, and may provide private space, in the form of a balcony or deck, to foster public interaction and surveillance.

Sue Hestor, a community land use attorney who has been involved in the Eastern Neighborhood Community Planning Project from its start, has several concerns about the draft *Guidelines*. According to Hestor, "...there is a wide range of types of housing and development in those areas. They are very different from a lot of the other areas. We need some respect of the Residential Design

Guidelines in the Mission and South of Market to deal with the scale of abutting properties." Switzky noted that the *Guidelines* "represent good urban design in terms of how ground floor units are designed and relate to the street. They are flexible and most of the neighborhoods have similar urban design architectural patterns, while architectural style may differ."

Hestor thinks the *Guidelines* lack critical elements for development in dense, urban neighborhoods. "We need a complete set of guidelines about how to develop in relation to your neighbors," she said. Given that most of the City has zero lot lines – are built up to a property line – Hestor argues that planning standards need to include provisions for ensuring sunlight and air. While the *Guidelines* have such provisions for a building's front façade, they lack specifications for the sides and rear. Switzky noted that those sorts of provisions can be found in another *Residential Design Guidelines* document that applies to housing in other parts of the City, and that planners commonly use those principles in their design review regardless of the area. He added, "If there are other issues people want us to focus on, we can do that. We are trying to find the time and the money to coalesce the *Area Plan* information and *Design Guidelines* into one document."

Kepa Askenasy, a Potrero Hill

architect, supports the *Guidelines'* ground floor design, and believes the draft has "ample setbacks and design requirements intended to humanize and animate those areas." However, she feels the document lacks a critical element related to building height. "The Planning Department was under tremendous political pressure to allow for huge height increases in our area, adding 18 feet to the 50 feet already allowed by code. Most of the existing buildings in these areas are one to two stories high at about 20 feet, so the additional height will create buildings that will tower over us," she explained. She noted that in all other parts of the Planning Code buildings are required to be setback on the top floor to mitigate the increased height. "That setback area often becomes a nice deck with plants and greenery," she explained, adding, "It is a glaring omission that the Planning Department, the Land Use Committee, and the Board of Supervisors decided to overlook."

According to Switzky there were only two public comments submitted on the draft document: a testament to its thoroughness in his opinion. Hestor suggested that community members didn't comment because they're exhausted by the Eastern Neighborhoods' decade-long planning process, and preoccupied with the holidays. The Planning Commission will further consider the guidelines this month.

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More Bike Lanes Slated for Potrero Hill

By Mary Purpura and Silvano Purpura-Pontoniere

Under its Transit First Policy the City and County of San Francisco strives to discourage driving while encouraging the use of mass transit, bikes, and feet as more desirable urban travel choices. But, in the case of bicycling, a 2006 Superior Court injunction hog-tied the City, stalling implementation of a host of bike-friendly improvements, such as creating new bike lanes, adding more bike racks, and changing traffic signal timing to benefit cyclists. The court decision, in response to a lawsuit filed by a San Francisco resident, required the City to perform a thorough environmental impact analysis on its proposed *Bicycle Plan*, particularly examining how the plan's projects might affect traffic flow, parking, and transit use.

"Every year, the MTA [Metropolitan Transit Authority] tallies the number of bicyclists on certain San Francisco streets," said Andy Thornley, program director for the 10,000-member San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. "From August 2006 to August 2008, the MTA reported a 43 percent increase in bicycling in the City." The dramatic rise in bicyclists, combined with the court injunction,

has created a pent-up demand for bike-friendly improvements.

San Francisco planners released the *Bicycle Plan's* draft environmental impact study just before Thanksgiving. Long-stalled projects may now be implemented starting this summer. One *Bicycle Plan* element is to establish bike lanes on Cesar Chavez and Illinois streets, a project that delights Kati Jackson. Every workday Jackson bikes along Cesar Chavez from her home on 23rd Street and Potrero Avenue to her job as a customer service specialist at Rickshaw Bagworks at 22nd and Minnesota Streets. "Cesar Chavez bike lanes would be the most wonderful thing in the entire world. It would impact me in a positive way every day," said Jackson, who, while committed to bike commuting, acknowledged that she doesn't always feel completely safe while cycling on Cesar Chavez. "It's a very busy street during the commute. Everyone drives fast, there's very little space between moving traffic and parked cars, and a lot of drivers don't pay attention to how close they pass by me on my bike," said Jackson.

Jackson believes that establishing bike lanes on Cesar Chavez would help calm traffic on that street, and

create a more congenial route for bikers. Thornley agreed, "Bike lanes on Cesar Chavez will make for a little more equitable division of space," he said. "Just by painting those lines on a street and establishing space for others besides drivers, we synthesize safe practices. We've found that bike lanes make crossing the street easier and safer for pedestrians; they get more people out and biking; they slow traffic; and they help motorists develop an awareness of the presence of cyclists," he explained. Slowing traffic can be a life or death matter for cyclists. "If you're hit by a car going 15 miles per hour, you'll probably be OK," explained Thornley. "But if you're hit by a car going 40 miles per hour, you'll probably be killed or badly hurt."

Ann Lyons has experienced firsthand the effects of bike lanes. A San Francisco bike commuter since the early 1980s – when neither Potrero Hill nor downtown San Francisco had bike lanes – Lyons now rides her bike to work every day from her home on 20th Street to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's South-of-Market building, where she works as a lawyer. "I have seen such an increase in the number of bike riders since Folsom, Howard,

and Seventh streets were striped with bike lanes," she said. On Howard Street alone, bike traffic has tripled since bike lanes were introduced.

Lyons believes that cyclists beget more cyclists. In 1981, she was doored; a motorist opened his driver side door into her as she was cycling past. She was knocked off her bike into traffic, though she fortunately suffered no serious injuries. "After I was doored, I started riding a motorcycle," she said. But as she noticed more bicyclists on the road, she decided to get back on her bike. Besides her daily work commute, she bikes to her Mission Bay gym and to doctor appointments. "East-west bike lanes are sorely lacking," said Lyons. "There's a stretch on 16th Street, but nothing further south."

Some American Industrial Center – located between 20th, 22nd, Third, and Illinois streets – tenants are concerned that placing bike lanes on Illinois Street, which is heavily used by trucks, isn't a good idea. Daily bike commuter, SFBC development director, and Carolina Street resident Jodie Medeiros disagrees, "Bike lanes on Illinois will provide a safe alternative to riding on chaotic Third Street for those biking the Dogpatch-downtown corridor."

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Merchants Announce Buy Local Pledge

More than 140 people pledged to spend at least \$100 at locally-owned Potrero Hill and Dogpatch businesses last month. Some enthusiastic residents agreed to dedicate as much as \$500 – and in a few cases, all of their holiday shopping dollars – for a total of more than \$20,000 in pledged expenditures.

The Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses (PHAMB) initially planned to give away \$500 worth of donated goods and services to one lucky pledge winner. But generous PHAMB members offered close to \$1,500 in gift certificates, enabling the association to select three winners. Grand Prize winner Chet R. has lived at De Haro and 23rd streets since 1993, and has been involved in numerous civic activities over the years. Chet enjoys patronizing M&M market, Thinkers Cafe, Eliza's, Goat Hill Pizza, and Billy's Cleaners, among other local businesses, and intended to expand his local business horizons over the holiday season. Chet won more than \$800 worth of goods and services from Camille Gregoire Therapeutic Massage, Centered Body Pilates, Christopher's Books, Farley's, The Good Life Grocery, Photography

by Emily Payne, Piccino, Potrero Chiropractors, Sports Basement, and Tiptoes Nail Salon.

Runner-up winner Clara K. can no longer claim that she "never wins anything!" Another long-time resident, Clara has lived in Potrero Hill since 1983. She fulfilled her pledge by spending more than \$100 at Collage Gallery and Christopher's Books. Clara "loves shopping and supporting small business owners, especially those in my own neighborhood." She was gifted more than \$400 worth of goods and services from Dr. Ann Brinkley, Pinkies Nail Salon, Phoenix Rising Bodywork, Jay's Deli, and Soulflower Floral Design, among other local business.

Christina O., the third winner, recently moved to Arkansas Street with her family after living in Dogpatch for five years. She plans to spend \$100 at Ruby Wine, and enjoys shopping at Bell & Trunk and Delirious Shoes. Her family frequently dines in the neighborhood, including at Axis Café and Eliza's. Christina received more than \$200 worth of goods and services from Collage Gallery, among other places.

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– Janet J.



Community Continues to Discuss Redevelopment of Potrero Hill Public Housing Complex

By Lisa Tehrani

It was standing-room only at a meeting to discuss redeveloping the Potrero Hill public housing complex held at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House late last year. Under the auspices of HOPE-San Francisco, a collaboration between the Mayor's Office of Housing and the San Francisco Housing Authority, the 606-unit Potrero Hill Terrace and Annex will be one of four public housing complexes to be reconstructed over the next decade.

The City previously redeveloped five other public housing developments under HOPE 6, a now defunct federal program run by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. That program's funding was cut by the Bush Administration, prompting City officials to develop their own program to replace remaining dilapidated housing complexes. The Potrero Annex and Terrace will be the second public housing complex to be rebuilt under HOPE-SF.

Bridge Housing, an affordable housing developer, is leading the 18-month site planning process. The nonprofit is holding a series of community focus groups on such topics as safety, sustainability, building prototypes, open space and circulation

and unit plans. The project, called Rebuild Potrero, has already held three meetings with existing complex residents. Bridge took residents on a bus tour to see other San Francisco public housing complexes, including Bridge-developed North Beach Place. That complex is of particular interest because it includes a mix of market and below market rate units, and consists of a mixed use design that blends in with the rest of the neighborhood.

Tony Kelly, Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association president, believes it's essential to keep existing complex residents involved in the planning process. "There is such a history of mistrust and broken promises from the Housing Authority that Bridge has to be very careful to keep an open process. There was a lot of information about site planning at the town hall [meeting], but not much information about implementation. Bridge has to do better on that side of things," he said. He added that he'd like to see displacement of existing residents kept to a minimum, as well as opportunities for local hiring and business development.

Carol Galante, Bridge Housing's Chief Executive Officer, explained that she's committed to listening to

residents' perspectives throughout the planning process. "I think their biggest concern is ensuring they have the ability to live in the new development and not to be relocated off site during the development process if at all possible. They also are interested in making sure their rights as existing tenants are protected," Galante stated.

Eddie Cattrell, Potrero Terrace Residents Association president, thought that the meeting was a success, and was happy to have the Boosters membership join in the discussion. "We are excited about it because it is long overdue. Most of the residents are all for it because these places are unlivable," he said.

Galante explained that all of the existing units will be replaced with below-market housing. Market rate units will also be built, creating an economically integrated community and helping to finance the development. She noted that residents have expressed a strong desire to maintain their existing services, such as the day care and family resource center. "Nothing has been set in stone and a lot is not yet determined in terms of where these activities will be located," she said, "but the strength of many of the existing services is impressive." Galante added that there are some preliminary discussions about keeping a leasing building that exists on site and planning a park or play space around it. There will also be neighborhood-oriented commercial space in the new development, potentially located at the property's edge so that it can be easily accessed by the entire community.

Fred Pollack, a partner with Van Meter Williams Pollack, the architectural firm hired to design the site plan, presented a design prototype for the area, drawing on the existing urban design in the rest of Potrero Hill. The redeveloped complex will incorporate such common neighborhood elements as porches, stoops and rear yards. There's also an interest in drawing on Potrero Hill's existing street pattern, such as having multiple ways to access the community. The design firm plans to incorporate the neighborhood's significant sun exposure and notable views into the site plan. Van Meter will perform the master plan and design some of the buildings, but other architectural firms will be involved at a later stage.

Pollack noted that there's a need to work with the existing infrastructure due to limited funding, which may influence the design. The area also has steep slopes and a lot of serpentine rock, which can make construction challenging and expensive.

Construction will likely begin in a couple of years, occurring in at least three phases over upwards of seven years. Existing residents will be relocated, either on or off site, as needed. Although preliminary proposal documents indicated the construction of 1,200 total units, that's no longer a relevant figure, according to Galante. Still, the developers are committed to a 1:1 replacement of the existing public housing units. "I'm sure everyone on the Hill is happy to see plans for a rebuild of Potrero's public housing moving forward. The sooner the rebuild can happen, the better for everyone," said Kelly.

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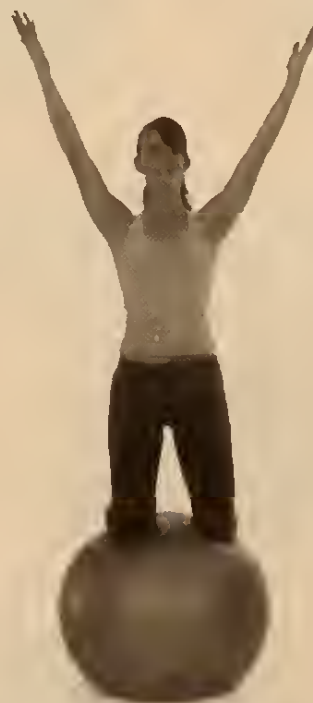
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Traffic Calming

Continued from Front Page

of the street, which would narrow the entrances, shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians, and tighten turns, among other things, thereby forcing drivers to pay more attention. A bulbout is when the sidewalk is expanded at intersections, thereby narrowing the street and providing opportunities to add plants at the bulbs, as can be seen at 23rd and Bryant streets. Sallaberry pointing out that 85 percent of Kansas Street traffic averages 33 miles per hour (mph), while the speed limit is 25 mph.

Another meeting participant complained about the intersection at 19th and Mississippi streets, where there are "a lot of crashes or near crashes." In response, SFMTA proposes to implement perpendicular parking, which narrows streets and adds parking, to the area. "It's an easy switch" Gubser stated. "While backing out is a bit awkward it gets speeds down."

Another resident was nervous that the proposal to narrow the road, and add perpendicular parking, as a way to lower speeds on Vermont and Mariposa streets would "recreate the same problems [of traffic congestion] that already exist now on Third Street" as a result of the T-line. Other participants supported the proposals, stating, "Anything you do on Vermont street would be an improvement. Anything."

The plan is scheduled to be

finalized this month. SFMTA will then coordinate with other neighborhood projects, such as redevelopment of the Potrero Hill public housing complex, so as to maximize the resulting benefits to the community. SFMTA also needs to secure funding for the traffic measures, and will likely start with the least expensive projects, such as the gateways and bulbouts scheduled for various intersections on Mariposa, 17th, 18th, and 19th streets, as well as the intersection of Rhode Island and Southern Heights. The first round of projects will likely be implemented in late-2009. More expensive project elements, such as midblock islands – commonly seen in the Mission district, where trees separate the two lanes of traffic – will likely not be implemented until 2011. The islands have been proposed for multiple Hill locations, including along Southern Heights and Dakota, 26th and Rhode Island, and 19th and Mississippi. SFMTA receives funds from a half-cent sales tax from the City, which typically produces \$2 million a year, and from state, federal, and local grants.

SFMTA's traffic calming recommendations must be approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, with a vote likely to be taken by the spring. Muni, a department within the SFMTA, must also approve the proposed measures.

If you'd like to know more about SFMTA's traffic calming proposals, or provide feedback on them, call 554.2398, or check sfmta.com/calming.

Kids on the Block By Stacy Bartlett

On January 20th, Josy Hicks Jablons and Carla Tamayo of Potrero Hill will perform at Barack Obama's Presidential Inauguration as part of the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

Happy fifth birthday on January 3 to Lola Saloman! Lola is a big fan of princesses, Hello Kitty, Power Puff girls and anything pretty.

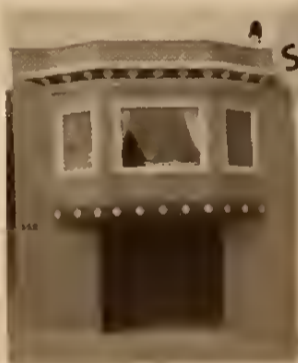


The Offenhartzes celebrate two special birthdays this month. Claire turns three on January 9th, and her lil' brother Sean celebrates his first birthday on January 18th. Hip Hip Hooray!

Thanks for making 2008 a great year!



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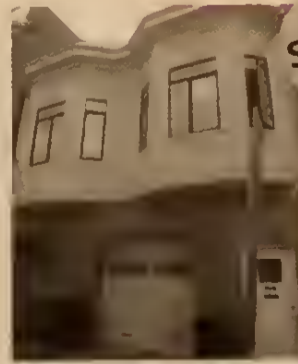
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Cracks in the Asphalt, The Community Gardens in San Francisco describes 30 gardens and the visionaries who created them, including the Potrero Hill Community Garden, pictured above. The book is available at Christopher's Books on 18th Street. Photograph by Stacey J. Miller.



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Police Blotter

December 24, 8:28 p.m., Weapon, Deadly, Terrorist Threats, 1900 25th Street: Officer McArthur and Training Officer McCormick responded to a call regarding a person with a gun. Officers spoke to the witness/victim who stated that the suspect, who he knew by name, banged on his front door, stuck a weapon to the peep hole and threatened the victim with it. The victim refused to open the door, and called the police. The officers were unable to locate the suspect.

December 24, 12:05 p.m., 25th and Indiana streets: Officer Moore responded to a robbery call involving a victim who had her purse taken. The officer spoke to the victim, who stated that she was walking on the street when three suspects approached her from behind, grabbed her purse and fled the area. The victim was not injured during the incident.

December 20, 3:18 a.m., Driving under the Influence of Alcohol, Suspended License. Third and 24th streets: Officers arrested an individual for driving drunk when they found him slumped over the steering wheel, stopped at a stop sign. The driver also had a suspended license. He told officers that he'd been drinking beer in Oakland and decided to drive to San Francisco to meet up with some friends. Officers placed the driver under arrest without incident.

December 16, 8:23 p.m., Aggravated Assault with a Gun, 1000 block of Connecticut: Officers Arndt and Paul responded to a call regarding a gunshot victim. The officers found a victim who'd been shot and was being treated by a medic. The officers located bullet fragments near the victim. The victim told the officers that he didn't think he was the intended victim, since he doesn't participate in criminal or gang activity. The officers attempted to talk with possible witnesses, without success. The victim was treated at San Francisco General Hospital, where he was listed in stable condition.

December 15, 12:35 a.m., Vehicle, Stolen, Petty Theft with prior Conviction, 2000 Block of Bayshore Boulevard: Officers Graves and Chu were driving on Bayshore when they stopped a car that had made an illegal left turn. The officers learned that the vehicle had been stolen. The officers placed the vehicle's driver into custody without incident. A computer check of the suspect revealed that he was on parole with prior theft convictions. The suspect told officers that he was driving the car to the customer from the auto body shop where he works.

December 12, 9:40 p.m., Third and 20th streets: Approximately ten young suspects attempted to rob a victim as he was getting off a Muni bus. One of the suspects took the victim's hat, while several others pulled at his bag and went through his pockets. The victim fought back, retaining his belongings. The victim got his cell phone out of his pocket and called 911. The suspects ran from the area. The victim was not injured during the incident.

December 11, 2:35 p.m., Possession of a Knife on School Grounds, 600 block of Vermont Street: School Resource Officer Johnson responded to Downtown High School regarding a knife that was confiscated from a student. Officer Johnson spoke with the school official who'd seized the knife from the student during a search. Officer Johnson took custody of the knife and admonished the juvenile, who was remanded to the custody of his parents.

December 9, 3:21 p.m., Kidnapping during Robbery, 700 block of Missouri Street: Bayview housing team members were searching for robbery suspects who fled into the Potrero Hill public housing complex. Housing team officers found the suspects' vehicle abandoned at Wisconsin and Connecticut streets, still running. A witness told officers that he saw the two suspects that abandoned the car run into a unit near the area. Officers searched, and found a yellow cab waiting outside a unit. Both suspects entered the cab and laid down, attempting to hide. Officers placed both suspects into custody and found a handgun in the pocket of one of them. No one was injured during the incident.

December 9, 2:22 p.m., Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer, Evading Police Causing Injury, 1200 block of Bayshore: Narcotics Team members were in the area of Bayshore when they spotted a well-known robbery suspect. The suspect initially pulled over for the marked unit, but then sped off, ramming a police undercover car and two marked police cars in an attempt to get away. Two of the officers attempting to place the suspect in custody sustained injuries during the incident.

December 6, 5:39 a.m., Battery, Police Officer, 800 block of 22nd Street: Officers Masilang, Whitney, and Balingit responded to a call regarding graffiti. The officers attempted to detain three graffiti suspects, but they ran in separate directions. The officers gave chase, and after a brief struggle took one of the suspects into custody. The officers were unable to locate the other two suspects. One officer suffered minor injuries during the struggle.

Saving the Environment, One Bug at a Time

By Sharyl Yamamoto



Gasps and giggles filled the Merced Branch Library in response to the appearance of the first six-legged creature. A quiet young girl anxiously stared at the delicate segmented legs of the Darkling beetle, a Californian native, as it meandered up the instructor's arm. Meanwhile, a boisterous young man uncontrollably jumped up and threw out his hands, signaling that he's ready to handle the insect.

These are typical reactions to Potrero Hill-based SaveNature.Org's educational program, the Insect Discovery Lab. While some children are immediately comfortable with a millipede, the hissing cockroach often takes time to get used to. Either way, the experience is a highlight of many gatherings, and is changing the way Bay Area residents view bugs.

For the past decade the Insect Discovery Lab has been traveling to Bay Area schools, libraries, parties, and even restaurants to educate the public about insects and conservation.

Discovery Lab educators teach audiences that range from pre-schoolers to high school students about insects' defense mechanisms and predation tactics. In 2008 the Discovery Lab made almost 800 presentations to more than 30,000 individuals; the Lab hopes to make upwards of 1,000 presentations this year.

Proceeds from Insect Discovery Lab visits – a fee is charged for the presentations – help support its parent organization, SaveNature.Org. SaveNature.Org works to protect endangered eco-systems, including rainforests, deserts and coral reefs. Since its conception in 1988, the nonprofit has purchased thousands of acres of habitat around the world through its Adopt An Acre program, which solicits individual donations to purchase specific wild tracts.

To book the Insect Discovery Lab contact SaveNature.Org at (415).648.3392; savenature.org.

Shop in San Francisco, Get More for Your Money

By Mayor Gavin Newsom

Even in these tough economic times, most of us still went holiday shopping. And it's important how we choose to spend our money. Heading to discount chains and box stores searching for bargains might have eased your financial pains in December. But January and February is what we really need to be thinking about. During those months San Franciscans need to shop local.

Money spent at local businesses is reinvested in the community. This helps other local businesses, which creates greater diversity and enables San Francisco to maintain its unique appeal. Shopping local is environmentally friendly, too: it creates less traffic and pollution.

Shop SF, Get More, is a city-wide incentive program to encourage local and Bay Area residents to visit, shop, and stay in San Francisco

during December and January. The campaign offers special discounts and promotions exclusively for residents of the nine Bay Area counties, including providing Bay Area residents with special discounts when they show their zip code at participating merchants; offering the FunDay pass, which allows Muni riders to explore San Francisco on one transfer all day, every Sunday with the Sunday; and providing special validations at City-owned parking garages.

After the holiday shopping spree dies down, it will be even more important to keep our focus local. Supporting your neighborhood businesses will go a long way in ensuring a strong local economy, and help keep everyone afloat.

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Potrero Hill Home & House Boat Tour

Sunday, January 25, 2009

11 am to 3 pm

Spend an afternoon meeting your neighbors and checking out some architectural beauties on Potrero Hill. Take a tour of the house boat community on Mission Creek. Tickets are \$25 for one person or \$40 for two people. *



*All proceeds benefit the Potrero Library Campaign to raise money for furniture, fixtures, and equipment to complete the Potrero Library renovations.

Tickets are available at:
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For more information about the Potrero Library Campaign or to order tickets, please contact:
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(415) 626-7512 x 106
Tina.Tom@FriendsSFPL.org
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Million Fishes

Continued from Front Page

the curiosities continue. Visitors are greeted by grinning skulls in altarpieces and block-print, machete-bearing skeletons, part of "Calavera Oaxaquena Mensajes De La Lucha Social," a collaborative show that featured some 70 Oaxacan and Bay Area artists and curated by artist-in-residence Tania Padilla.

Padilla, who discovered Million Fishes a year and a half ago through the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, says that the collective is unique in that it is not geared toward any overarching art movement or identity. The approach gives members the freedom to explore the collective's multifaceted tools and other assets. "Everyone has their individual hopes and aspirations for the space, be it fashion, film, dance theater, community engaged arts," she said. "What lies underneath it all, though, is that there is space for it all." Padilla's show was replaced by "Monikers of Fate," an exhibition of Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco artists of various mediums curated by another artist-in-residence, Kevin Scott Hailey. The collective's shows last no more than a month, and are generally curated by collective members, who are responsible not only for creating their own art but for bringing outside show ideas to the group's weekly meetings.

"We run it like a business" said musician, journalist, and artist-in-residence Aaron Selverston, who, at four and a half years, has lived at the collaborative longer than any other resident. "We have regular weekly meetings to choose who and what we will be displaying, with a treasurer and spread sheets and the whole thing. Artists who want to curate a show type up a proposal and we vote on it." Money earned from shows and other activities goes toward capital improvements - paint, ladders, a public address system - and to support artist expenses for things like supplies and travel. Experience earned from the shows goes toward building a reputation for both the

artist and the collective.

"The direction we are trying to go with things now is toward becoming a legitimate art venue, so we're stepping up our curation," said Selverston, who added that the past year has seen a boom in show attendance and recognition. Biannual group resident shows have seen steady crowds topping out around 250 people, and curated shows gained steadily in popularity. Selverston attributed the recent successes to the overall coherence of the collective's vision and its members' growth as experienced curators. "Just by living here, you are constantly challenged to improve the work you do, whether it's art or curation," he said. "When someone here curates a show that features promising artists and that gets great press, as another artist-in-residence, you're going to do your best to match that."


The collective's creative challenge and shared resources are highly-sought commodities. When a space is vacated and word is spread through craigslist or the artist community, it is common for 40 or more hopefuls to apply to fill it. New artists are selected through a series of regular open houses and callbacks. Residents vote using a loose criteria based on merit and compellability of the artwork and fit of the artist. Rent averages \$700 per room and the average residency is about a year.

Ally Dutra, a designer who re-appropriates used clothing into distinct fashions, said she was one of about 45 applicants when she competed for a collective space ten months ago. "It was really scary. I was homeless and sleeping on the floor of my art studio at the time," she said. Now, with access to a live/work space, Dutra said both the quality of her life and the quality at which she produces her work have been raised significantly. Dutra is one of the only artists in the building who is able to support herself solely through her art work.

Currently the collective's lone choreographer, Christina Miglino, still works two outside jobs, but is able to spend her money on something other than outside rehearsal space. "Having use of the space and being around other artists keeps me confident that I can accomplish my creative goals," she said. "It's good to have other people around who have some similar perspective on money and art - where they collide and where they just don't."

Padilla agrees that the experience of the collective community itself is what gives Million Fishes its staying power. "One of our greatest strengths is that we [have] the resources and intention to help support not only each other, but also our fellow artists. This could take the form of creating informal art residencies that don't live here but have access to the ... dance studio, darkroom, and gallery to create and exhibit their work."

Million Fishes also holds a monthly music event called Anaphylactic and offers yoga classes to the public. More information on Million Fishes can be found on their Web site at millionfishes.com.



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Home Cooked Meals That You Don't Have to Prepare

By Gina Poggi

For many San Franciscans dinner consists of a frozen entrée or takeout. With busy schedules jam-packed with work, errands, exercise and kids, it's no wonder many of us resort to fast, greasy, and salt-laden foods. Wouldn't it be nice to come home to a healthy, delicious, gourmet dinner? Four Bay Area businesses – Amaranth, Peal Cuisine, Cook!, and Debbie Does Dinner – offer three different ways to have fresh, organic home-cooked meals seamlessly pop out of your oven.

After working in various food venues Chef Lisa Cutler, a Sunset district resident, decided to express her culinary creativity by launching her own personal chef service, Amaranth, named after a native San Francisco plant that's known for its high-protein grain and luscious red color. Cutler, a California Culinary Academy Cordon Bleu program graduate, prepares meals in her clients' home, so long as they're located within an hour of San Francisco. At the end of the day her clients come home to tasty, nutritious meals that are ready to heat and serve.

Amaranth is perfect for upper Haight resident Terry Burchell, a busy Wells Fargo professional. "With my schedule, I never have time to cook. Lisa is my healthy, delicious alternative to ordering delivery or microwaving yet another frozen dinner." Amaranth sources all produce, meats and other ingredients from local, organic suppliers. The menu features scrumptious dishes like West African Chicken and Bananas and Pork Loin with Apricot Glaze, but Cutler makes it a point to cater to each of her client's needs. She has a questionnaire about allergies, dietary needs, likes and dislikes, and goes over the specifics with her clients. "I suggest a menu and after they approve it, they can pick and choose which meal they want to eat that day," said Cutler. She even cooks family recipes.

"It's a delight to have mouth-watering home cooked meals that are tailored for my palate and dietary requirements," said technology consultant and Panhandle resident David Brenneman, who touts Amaranth's rice salad as "uber good." The price for weekly or biweekly service varies depending on the size and number of meals. Typically a meal costs \$16, plus the grocery expenses. A two-person household with an every-other-week service of four entrees plus one side dish, pays \$250 plus groceries. The fee covers menu planning, travel time,

shopping, storage containers, and food preparation. It's a win-win situation for Burchell. "I actually save money, and when I come home, the kitchen is clean, and the fridge is stocked."

Peal Cuisine has been delivering eclectic, delicious and healthy vegetarian meals to San Francisco residents for more than a decade. Noe Valley resident Jane Peal spent five years traveled throughout the Mediterranean, cooking her way through most of the countries and learning the various cuisines. She graduated from Tante Marie's Cooking School, and served an apprenticeship at Greens Restaurant.

Fresh, natural ingredients, prepared authentically, are the basis of Peal's cooking style. Peal Cuisine's changes its menu monthly, featuring a Vegetable Salad with Truffled-Champagne Vinaigrette Caramelized Vegetable Cassoulet with Cognac and Alpine Flavors, and Orzo Persillade for New Year's Eve. A near-organic three-course meal for two costs \$30.

Partners Nona Lim and Derek Kennedy have been dishing up home cooked meals at Cook! for more than two years. The pair have devised meal plans that satisfy even the most finicky of palates. Based in South San Francisco, Cook! caters to carnivores, vegetarians, and even offers gluten- and dairy-free dishes. Each week Cook! delivers meal kits to clients that contain fully prepared ingredients and step-by-step instructions to quickly cook a dinner. Everything is sliced, diced and ready to heat. In 20 minutes or less clients can prepare a gourmet meal. "The food is fresh, healthy and tastes great," said South-of-Market resident Oriana. "It is also a great way for me to learn how to cook and feel more comfortable in the kitchen."

Cook! uses all natural, organic meats and fish from local suppliers. Meal kits are preservative and additive-free, and are prepared on the day of delivery or the day before. "We love Cook!," said full-time working mom, and Bernal Heights resident Suman, "because in less than 15 minutes, my husband and I can have a healthy and delicious dinner on the table. The ingredients are always fresh and the meals are creative."

Cook! features two types of menus: gourmet, which focuses on Californian restaurant style cuisine; and family, which is designed for the entire family. The menu changes monthly, and includes delectable entrees like Roasted

Chicken Thighs with Chorizo Rice Pilaf, Organic Spring Mix with Persimmon and Pecans, Grilled Steak with Creamed Horseradish, Wilted Kale with Shallots, and Leek and Potato Soup. Cook!'s clients enjoy all of the dishes, but the hands-down favorite entrée is Miso Salmon with Soba Noodles and Bok Choi, according to owner Lim. Cook! delivers throughout the Bay Area. Family menus for four are \$37.95; gourmet entrées start at \$14.95.

Debbie Epstein of Debbie Does Dinner relies on seasonal items and local, organic ingredients to whip-up her delicious entrees in a South San Francisco commercial kitchen. "The meat is all natural; the fish is wild or come from sustainable farming practices," said Epstein. Though she cooks many meat and fish-based dishes, Epstein also caters to the veggie crowd, with at least two vegetarian options or more on the menu. Epstein started Debbie Does Dinner ten years ago, and describes her cooking style as "comfort food with a healthy twist." She uses multi-grain pasta instead of regular pasta, and prepares a low-carb version of zucchini manicotti. Debbie Does Dinner sends out a new menu each week to her clients with three or four entrée choices plus desserts. Once they're delivered the meals are ready to heat and eat.

"She's amazing. She cooks in all these different styles. It's very fresh tasting and very homemade tasting and just delicious," said Noe Valley resident Hilary Craddock. Craddock, who recently sustained a leg injury, couldn't stand or walk for more than five minutes at a time. With a part-time job and two kids and a husband to feed, she often relied on greasy to-go food. "It turned our family upside down," said

Craddock, "It was take out, take out, take out and I just couldn't stand it anymore." That's when she called on Debbie Does Dinner for help. "We thought we would try something that was at least a homemade meal that I could feed to my family and not feel guilty about having unhealthy choices." One of her family's favorite: a butternut squash lasagna that Craddock describes as "phenomenal."

Potrero Hill resident Cathy Widener, a full-time working professional and mother of two, relies on Debbie Does Dinner's services two to three times a month. She loves the entrees, as well as the desserts. "I love her Chicken Marabella, and the turnovers are always great...her Whoopie Pies I get every single time that she offers them. They're amazing," said Widener.

A grandniece of Betty Crocker, Epstein says she's a "baker at heart." Her menu features 17 varieties of cookies and bars, all of which are made from scratch. The most popular treats: Double Chocolate Mint Cookies and Yum Yum Bars, a decadent seven-layer bar made of graham cracker crust, layers of chocolate chips on butterscotch chips and coconut. Debbie Does Dinner delivers throughout the Bay Area. Prices range from roughly \$10 to \$14 per portion.

To have healthy meals delivered to your door contact Jane Peal at 826.2133 or visit www.pealcuisine.com; Debbie Epstein at 468.3323 or debbie@debbiedoesdinner.com. For more information on Amaranth's Personal Chef Service visit www.amaranth-sf.com. To learn more about Cook! visit <http://www.cook-sf.com> or call 513.5328.



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Public Schools

Continued from Front Page

Smith began volunteering with the Alvarado PTA when her son started kindergarten. That year, Smith got her first taste of fundraising, helping with the gift wrap fundraiser.

According to Smith, the PTA raised \$235,000 during the 2007-8 school year, mostly through a year-long pledge drive and a once-a-year auction in the spring. "The auction is a fun event that brings the entire community together," said Smith. Businesses donated 400 items for last year's auction, which was managed by Alvarado parents Angela Danison and Gabriele Lange.

"It really helps that we have a great working relationship with principal Broecker," David said. Before becoming principal in 2007, Broecker taught at Alvarado for five years. "He's done an excellent job," said David.

A native of El Salvador, Gabriela Tinoco has two children, Nick, in second grade and Sofia, four, in pre-school. Tinoco is half-way through her two-year term as PTA president. An engineer by training, Tinoco is the former executive director of and works at El Porvenir, a nonprofit which helps provide safe drinking water to the poor in Nicaragua. "Unlike many PTAs, we raise money the preceding year for the next academic school year," Tinoco said. This academic year the PTA launched its annual drive in August instead of waiting until November, sending fundraising letters to all parents of the approximately 490 kids who attend Alvarado.

"Out of the \$235,000 that we raised last year, art programs took the biggest chunk, \$44,000 - the school receives an additional \$10,000 from Proposition H for music instruction - \$32,000 for science instruction and \$8,700 for literacy. Eleven thousand dollars went to field trips and conferences, \$30,000 for the K-2 Healthy Kids program, which targets motor skills coordination for little kids and supplements yard supervision. The PTA gave about \$67,000 for use in instructional support, funds that the district and state were going to cut. Of that, \$15,000 was for professional development for teachers, so that they can stay up-to-date with best practices and new learning for our kids," said Tinoco.

Last year, Alvarado raised upwards of \$50,000 more than the previous year, monies that helped support the school's rich art curriculum. "Alvarado was one of the first schools to implement art programs, and in doing so became a model for other schools. It's a 40-year-old program that includes instruction in clay, 2D arts, theater, dance and music," Smith said. Some of the children's artwork is sold at the school's auction, fetching the highest prices of all the items on offer.

"In addition to the annual fund and the auction, we hold a variety of community events, such as a carnival in the spring, a book fair, read-a-thon and rummage sale," said Smith. "We also take advantage of various scrip programs, which are an easy, passive way to fundraise, where the school receives money when families are shopping at select stores." The group also does direct mail and marketing to solicit last minute tax-deductible



Art at Alvarado. Photo by Diane Smith

contributions just before the end of the year.

"One of the school's new fundraisers this year 'is a program we're calling Cinco'en Cinco, which plays off the Spanish immersion program at Alvarado," Smith stated. "We are asking students to bring \$5 on May 5th, which is Cinco de Mayo. We will do some fun things, like have a piñata party, to recognize classes that have 100 percent participation."

With a budget situation described as "atrocious, we are forced to do everything we can to supplement it," said Starr King's principal Chris Rosenberg. Rosenberg points to the school's annual pledge drive as its major funding source. "Families donate every fall, and we've been able to raise \$10,000 to \$20,000, which is really good for a school our size, about 290 kids." The money raised is used for a variety of activities, including the Healthy Snacks program, art, and professional development.

The school also participates in the Adopt a Classroom program, a pledge drive during which Bay Area donors can designate a school to fund. Donors can specify items or activities, such as school supplies or extra teachers. In addition, Starr King has an online account which lists vendors and items needed. "We do a decent amount of grant writing," Rosenberg added, which pulls in another \$50,000 to \$70,000 for the school. "Starr King won a Healthy Walking grant, which pays for various activities related to improving safety, such as safe routes to school, which is a top priority."

Starr King offers four main programs: general education, Spanish bilingual, special education and Mandarin immersion. Established in 1955, until three years ago 95 percent of the school's student population was non-European-American. When Rosenberg joined Starr King a decade

and a half ago, "the school had 400 students. Four years ago, enrollment hit bottom, down to 150 students," he said. "The school population has gone back up since then, with the Mandarin immersion program bringing more Chinese-American and white students to the school, changing its demographics."

"Last year, we experienced a two percent cut, and we had to fight to keep funding consistent," Rosenberg recounted. "With Starr King's salaries and personnel, we had absolutely no wiggle room to do layoffs, and we didn't have to." Rosenberg credited the City's rainy day fund, created by former supervisor and now state assemblyman Tom Ammann, an ex-school teacher and head of the Board of Education, as saving the school. "You can more easily replace supplies. It would've been very hard to replace teachers."

At Daniel Webster, principal Moraima Machado is working with a brand-new PTA, with no fundraising track record as yet. Machado credits the Potrero Residents Education Fund (PREFund) for raising funds for the school over the past few years. Originally from Venezuela, Machado has been Webster's principal for just three years. Prior to joining the school Machado was an instructional reform facilitator, assessing classrooms and supporting teachers. Like Starr King, Webster's school demographics are diverse, reflecting the City's multi-cultural population: 60 percent Latino, 25 percent African-American, 10 percent Chinese-American, 7 percent European-American, and 7 percent Samoan and other.

Last year, the school held an international festival, raising roughly \$2,500 for field trips and to assist

San Francisco to Host Renewable Energy Conference

By Paul Liotsakis

The local renewable energy scene is looking to go global. This April, the Bay Area Center for Trade and Development (CITD), based at Skyline College, will hold a conference ambitiously titled "Implementation of Renewable Energy in the Emerging Markets of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean."

High profile conferences on energy issues are typically out of reach for most small businesses and everyday folks interested or working in the field. However, CITD's conference has some notable characteristics that may make it more accessible. CITD is one of four California-based centers that have a goal of enhancing the competitive strength of California businesses, and supporting international trade in local communities. The centers are funded by California Community Colleges economic and workforce development grants, which enable them to charge somewhat less than is typical for a high-quality conference: \$3,000 for exhibitors and \$400 for attendees. According to CITD Director Richard Soyombo, students can get a discount, particularly if they're willing to help during the three day proceeding.

Conference organizers hope that the gathering is a concrete step towards greater cooperation between the private and public sectors in the United States and developing countries on renewables implementation. According to David Hoshild, Solaria Corporation's Vice President of External Relations, the conference represents a "grand slam for problem-solving in the developing world, particularly now that the U.S. will receive renewed international legitimacy under [President] Obama." Among other participants, the Consul General of Brazil Mauricio Cortes Costa is planning to invite Brazilian companies involved in sugarcane biogas production to the conference, and intends to use the opportunity to convince U.S. policymakers to lift import duties on the fuel.

The conference is scheduled for April 27-29 at Hotel Nikko. For more information contact CITD at 650.738.7098



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arts

& ENTERTAINMENT

January 2009

January 1 - 31

Family: The Natural World As Viewed By Young People

Crissy Field Center presents an exhibit of children's creative interpretations of their home grounds. Co-founded by former United States Poet Laureate Robert Hass and writer Pamela Michael, more than fifty works of art and poetry from children living in Azerbaijan to the Ivory Coast, as well as many by California youth have been assembled. Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Information: www.crissyfield.org.

January 8 - 29

Art: Landscape beyond Landscape

This exhibition features works by four Bay Area artists, each with a unique perspective as communicated through paintings and photographs. Reception on January 8, 6 p.m.; Tuesdays to Fridays, noon to 8 p.m., Saturdays noon to 5 p.m. SOMARTS, 934 Brannan Street. Information: 552.2131, extension 7.

January 10

Community: Gardening Day at Esprit Park

Burning Man is hosting a gardening day at Esprit Park to express its gratitude for being able to use the space as the venue for the Decompression party for many years. They're looking for volunteers to help remove non-native plants and plant/seed new ones. Wear your most unusual gardening hat, and have fun digging in the park! Please bring your own work gloves. Coffee and donuts will be served. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Esprit Park, between Indiana and Minnesota and 19th and 20th streets. To get involved email: flambelounge@burningman.com.

Community: Potrero Hill Housing Focus Groups

Want to help improve the safety and quality of life in Potrero Hill's public housing complexes? Participate in a focus group organized by Bridge Housing to discuss how Potrero Terrace and Annex's future design might improve neighborhood safety. Both public and private housing residents are encouraged to attend. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., location to be determined. For information and to RSVP email Lisa Grady at Bridge Housing: potrero@bridgehousing.com.

Kids: Auditions for the Boys & Girls Chorus

For one day in the Bay Area, boys ages five to 12 and girls ages seven to

12 can audition for the San Francisco Boys Chorus or the San Francisco Girls Chorus School. Both organizations are dedicated to the advancement of young people through the study of excellence in choral music, building self-confidence, teamwork, self-discipline, and fostering an appreciation of music and culture. No musical experience is necessary to audition. Auditions for boys will be held by advance appointment only in San Francisco, San Rafael and Oakland. Auditions for girls will be held by appointment only in Oakland. No walk-ins. These two exceptional choruses will be featured performers at President Barack Obama's Inauguration on the steps of the United States Capitol building on January 20, and both perform home seasons in the Bay Area, tour and record extensively. For San Francisco Boys Chorus appointments: 861.7464 extension 319 or auditions@sfbcb.org. For San Francisco Girls Chorus School appointment: 863.1752 extension 333 or info@sfgirlschorus.org.

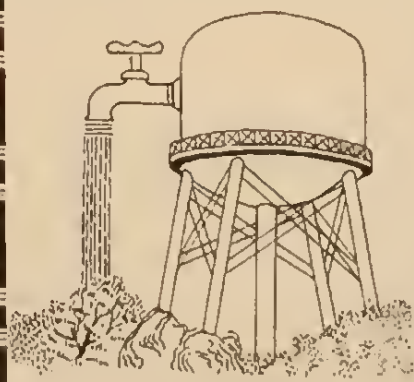
January 16

Art: Opening Season of Friday Nights at the de Young

Back for a fourth season, Friday Nights at the de Young kicks off with an exciting program of interdisciplinary arts, including live music, poetry, films, dance, tours, and lectures. This week's series features a docent-guided walk through Maya Lin's enormous 2 x 4 Landscape installation, two musical performances celebrating the musical traditions of Iran and Japan, hands-on art projects, and a panel discussion on various traditions in modern Asian art. 5 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Free with museum admission. de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, Golden Gate Park. For tickets or information: www.famsf.org/deyoung; 750.3600.

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January 18

Music: Presidents Breakfast

Join this electro-jazz-funk-dub band at Farley's and enjoy live music and good coffee. 2 p.m., Farley's Cafe, 315 18th Street. Information: <http://www.presidentsbreakfast.com/>

Community: Ocean Beach Clean-up

Join the Crissy Field Center to help keep the three-mile stretch of Ocean Beach clean and safe for all to enjoy. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Stairwell 15 between Fulton and Lincoln. Information: 561.3077 or e-mail volunteers@parksconservancy.org.

Music: Clairdee

With her lustrous voice and soulful delivery, Dogpatch resident Clairdee harkens back to a time when jazz, pop, and rhythm and blues often blended seamlessly together. Her latest CD, *Music Moves*, captures her soul-infused sound with a version of "Summertime" inspired by her love of Donny Hathaway and Al Green. Her knack for pairing songs that enhance each other is perfectly embodied in a mashup of the Joe Williams/Count Basie hit, "All Right, Okay, You Win," and with the lean instrumental funk of Les McCann and Eddie Harris's, "Cold

Duck Time." 5 to 6 p.m., Jazz Vespers, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street.

January 24

Comedy: Open Mic Night

Discover new and veteran comics in San Francisco's hopping comedy scene as they try new material at the only open mic in the City on Saturdays. Hosted by Liz Grant. Newbies warmly welcomed! 7:30 p.m., Farley's Cafe, 315 18th Street.

January 31

Music: West Indian Girl

Alluring and revolutionary, bright and buoyant, the Los Angeles-based sextet known as West Indian Girl visits Potrero Hill this month. Their newest release and second album, *4th on the Floor: Remixes Vol. 2*, bursts with instant, artful pop classics and majestic, lilting soundscapes. Their infectious hooks are irresistible. You won't want to miss this show. 10 p.m. with Loquat and The Love X Nowhere. Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th Street. Tickets: \$10. Information: www.bottomofthehill.com; 621.4455; www.westindiangirl.com.

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Public Schools

Continued from Page 15

low-income families. Students sold raffle tickets, and the school received donations from local restaurants and businesses.

A kindergarten to fifth grade school, Webster currently has just 180 students, roughly half of its capacity. A few years ago, the district proposed closing the campus because of declining enrollment. PREFund fought against the closure, and succeeded in keeping the school open with strategies to make it more attractive, particularly by adding a Spanish immersion program. Webster was recently renovated, and more upgrades to the facility are planned, with funding from foundations and private donations raised by PREFund. A few months ago, PREFund hosted a kick-off party at Webster to celebrate the successful opening of a private Spanish bilingual pre-school, Potrero Kids at Daniel Webster.

Julie Jackson, of Jackson Liles Architecture, is co-president of Leonard Flynn's PTA. The school, which is located on Cesar Chavez, offers Spanish immersion, and, as a result, the PTA has two presidents: one for English and the other for Spanish speakers. Roughly 460 children are enrolled at the school, the majority of whom come from economically challenged families. Jackson estimates that three-fourths of Flynn's schoolchildren are eligible for free lunch, with about 60 percent native Spanish speakers. "That's why at our monthly PTA meeting, we alternate conducting it in English and Spanish, and provide translations for both."

Jackson, who with her husband founded their eponymous architecture firm, has two children. Second grader Jasper attends Flynn, while Shelby, currently at Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School, will enter kindergarten next year. Originally from Ohio, Jackson earned her architecture degree from the University of Cincinnati. During the early-1990s she and her husband lived in the Tenderloin district while pursuing an architecture school internship. After graduation, they lived on Kansas and 22nd streets before moving to Carolina Street in 1995, where they currently reside.

Jackson became involved in fundraising at Flynn when her son started kindergarten, having previously co-chaired several pre-school fundraisers. "A lot had already happened at Flynn. There was a group of energetic go-getters in the PTA, who were probably getting burned out and it was time for new leadership." Jackson became co-president in August 2008.

"PTA shouldn't be all about fundraising, but it's a big part," Jackson commented. In her first year as co-president, the group is on target to raise \$40,000 to \$50,000. "That's really great, especially for a PTA that's

only three years old." PTA funds have paid for field trips, healthy snacks, and childcare at PTA meetings. Every grade gets a little extra, Jackson pointed out, as well as art, music, dance and theater, the latter for which the school district provides only minimal funding. The PTA also provides \$6,000 for Soul Shoppe, a character-building and story-telling enrichment program, where kids learn about communications, being responsible and resolving conflict.

"We train parents to use online donation outlets and tools such as Amazon.com and e-scrip," Jackson said. "Some businesses, such as Cole Hardware, or school uniform companies, donate to our school with every purchase. We also do direct appeal, asking families and groups, to donate. We have raised \$10,000 that way. Then there's employer matching funds. We produce all kinds of events, such as free movie night, where parents sell popcorn and pizza and made \$500. On Election Day, as Flynn was a polling place, we held an Election Day bake sale and sold goodies to voters, raising \$1,300."

"At every event that we can, we sell food. The last event was at [local music club] El Rio. Parents made and sold food at a concession stand and charged \$10 admission. A group of parents coordinated to produce the event and donated all the funds to the PTA. The PTA can't host these kinds of events directly because this venue sells drinks, but all the money made will go to the PTA. The har even gave a portion of the tab to us and our efforts netted a couple thousand dollars."

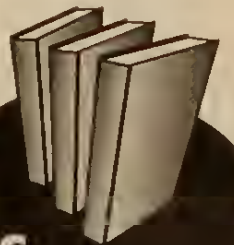
Like Alvarado, Flynn sells discounted scrip from local grocery stores, such as The Good Life Grocery and Rainbow. "They sell scrip at a 10 percent discount, so our PTA pays \$90 for every \$100 of scrip. Then the PTA sells the scrip to school parents for \$100. It's an easy way to raise money and we've made several thousand dollars that way," Jackson commented. Some parents are accomplished artists, such as jazz musician and band leader Marcus Shelby, who performed at the El Rio event. Other fundraising tactics include a read-a-thon, art projects and an online auction, the last of which raised \$2,500.

Jackson says the school community is working hard to bridge the achievement gap between Asian- and European-Americans and African-Americans and Latinos. "We can always use more money for arts enrichment programming, and targeted tutoring. We want to do events that appeal to a lot of people and are linguistically appropriate to Spanish speaking families, such as salsa night."

Jackson has nothing but praise for her grant writing committee. "We are increasingly looking to foundations instead of hitting up parents all the time," noted Jackson. "The grant committee does such a fantastic job, I can't believe how much they're doing."

POTRERO BRANCH 1616 20th STREET 355.2822

Tuesday 10 am - 8 pm, Wednesday 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday 10 am - 6 pm, Friday 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday 1 pm - 6 pm
Sunday and Monday CLOSED



LIBRARY NEWS

Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch Manager

Therese Cason, Mission Bay Branch Manager

Interim Services during Potrero Branch Closure

Bookmobile service is available on Tuesdays, 2:30 to 5 p.m.; and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on the north side of 1502 Mariposa Street, adjacent to the Jackson Park Recreation Center building. Bookmobile services include borrowing, returning, reserving or picking up materials, and obtaining or renewing a library card.

Storytime for children, from birth to five years old, will be offered at 10:30 a.m. on January 8, 15, and 22, at St. Teresa's community hall, Connecticut and 19th streets. Enter on Connecticut Street.

Thursday, January 29 at 10:30 a.m., celebrate Chinese New Year with the magic tricks of Andrew Ngo, suitable for children of all ages. St. Teresa's community hall, Connecticut and 19th streets. Enter on Connecticut Street.

Mission Bay Library

The Mission Bay Library is located at 960 Fourth Street, at Berry, near AT&T Park, and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 1 to 6 p.m.; Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. The Muni N and T lines are a block away, at Fourth and King streets, and street parking is available on Channel Street, also a block away. The branch phone number is 355.2838.

The Mission Bay Branch Library offers a variety of adult and children's programming, including:

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. and Fridays 4 p.m. Baby/Toddler Lapsits for ages birth to three.

Thursdays, 11 a.m. Preschool Storytime, for ages three to five.

January 10, 5 p.m., Chinese Lion Dancers. Celebrate the Lunar New Year (Year of the Ox) with a Chinese lion dance and martial art performance. For children of all ages.

January 24, 2 p.m. Home Preparedness in Earthquake Country. Matt Springer, University of California San Francisco Assistant Professor of Medicine, will talk about precautions that can be taken to lessen the damage from an earthquake at home and work. His presentation will include photos of preparations in his own home, as well as suggested measures, ranging from simple to complex, to prepare for the next temblor.

January 28, 6:30 p.m. Children's Yoga. Certified yoga instructor Tatjana Rmus will lead a yoga class for preschoolers (ages three to five) and their parents or caregivers. Bring a mat or a towel. Space is limited. Call 355.2838 for reservations.

Potrero Library Campaign

Check out architectural beauties on Potrero Hill and take a tour of house boats on Mission Creek. Sunday, January 25, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meet your neighbors and support your neighborhood library. Tickets are \$25 for one and \$40 for a pair. For information about tickets and tour locations, contact Tina Tom at Friends of the Library 626.7512, extension 106; tina.tom@friendssfpl.org.

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This 1951 image of an old apartment house located on Minnesota and 22nd streets was taken by renowned photographer Minor White (1908-1976) when he was the director of the innovative department of photography at the California School of Fine Arts (now known as the San Francisco Art Institute). The building was most likely on the west side of Minnesota, just south of 22nd Street, adjacent to one of Potrero Point's oldest industries, the Tubbs Cordage Company, and its 1000-foot-long ropewalk. A small park and Muni's construction shop occupy the site today. (California Historical Society, FN-03009. Reproduced with permission of the Minor White Archive, Princeton University Art Museum. Copyright © Trustees of Princeton University.) - Abigail Johnston, The Potrero Hill Archives Project

GETTING INVOLVED



Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **February 10th**, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit www.potreroboosters.org or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: **January 27th**, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **January 13th**, 10 a.m.

Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **January 6th**, 6 p.m.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, www.PHDemClub.org. Next Meeting: **January 6th**, 7pm.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.1926 for details.

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Employment

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